

S a n D i e g o C o u n t y

# Commission

## Children, Youth & Families



**2005 Annual Report**

# Commission on Children, Youth and Families Annual Report 2005

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# The Year in Review

*-Honorable Susan D. Huguenor*

I am proud to share with you the work and accomplishments of the Commission for 2005. In the past year, Commission members, joined by a cross-section of government, education, nonprofit agencies, and community members, worked diligently to improve services for children and families. Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations who contributed to this report.

- **In 2005, the Commission provided training and education to 2,478 people.** This is a 50% increase from the number of people trained in 2004 and four times the number trained for 2002. The steady increase can be attributed to the success of events like the 4th Annual Parenting Conference, which attracted more than 300 parents and caregivers and Diversity Schoolhouse, which continues to educate frontline workers in social services, law enforcement and education to work with various ethnic, cultural, religious, and other diverse groups.
- **The Child Abuse Prevention Committee developed a safe sleeping brochure for the Safe4Baby Campaign.** The Campaign, unveiled on September 22, 2005, is to raise awareness of safe sleeping for infants, shaken baby syndrome, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), and safely surrendering babies.
- **At the Child Abuse Prevention Month kickoff in April, the committee honored individuals by giving STARS Awards for the first time.** This year's STARS were Karen Bloch, volunteer Kids and Teens in Court Program; Nancy Deutsch, Social Worker for San Diego City Schools; Lorena Ortiz, Central Region Child Welfare Services; and Michael Weinrick, East Region Child Welfare Services.

- **The Partnership Transition Workgroup spearheaded a collaboration of County departments to survey service providers and consumers on community needs.** More than 700 respondents revealed the complexity of issues youth and families currently face and the gaps that exist. The Commission used the community input to develop a three-year plan for child abuse prevention funding, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State in September.
- **The Commission established a Fairness and Equity Workgroup to address the overrepresentation of African American and Indian children in child welfare.** This is a systemic issue identified in the Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan. This year, the workgroup participated in Undoing Racism Training and Peer Technical Assistance with King County, Washington with the support of Casey Family Programs.

While we are pleased with our accomplishments, there is still more work to be done. With the leadership of the Board of Supervisors, we will continue our efforts to support families.



# Mission

Advise the Board of Supervisors on policy affecting the well being of children, youth and families.

# Vision

Through advocacy and leadership, each San Diego child will reach his/her full potential, by growing up in a family, school and community that is safe, healthy and nurturing.

# 2005-2006 Focus

Strive to integrate the child serving system by building strong partnerships with shared accountability to improve outcomes for children and youth.

# Overview

The Commission on Children, Youth and Families (Commission) was formed by the Board of Supervisors in 1986, with a mandate to provide a leadership role in identifying and addressing the needs of children, youth and families who are either at-risk or in the public charge. The Commission is a cross-agency and cross-sector resource, as well as a public forum, for all policy, program and funding issues related to children, youth and families.

# Duties and Responsibilities

- To serve as an information resource to the Board of Supervisors on issues related to children, youth and families.
- To promote coordinated and collaborative efforts of public and private sector organizations engaged in services to children.
- To facilitate a regional and integrated service delivery approach to the provision of children, youth and family services.
- To develop and make policy recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer and Board of Supervisors regarding children, youth and family issues and services.
- To provide a regional public forum for the discussion of issues relating to children, youth and families.
- To assist agencies and departments in the development of plans for services to children, youth and families.
- To respond to requests from the Board of Supervisors to review issues relating to children, youth and families.
- To assist appropriate departments in reviewing legislation relating to children, youth and family issues.
- To promote efforts such as de-categorized, blended funding initiatives, and obtain categorical funding waivers, to increase local flexibility in funding and programming decisions related to children, youth and families.
- To promote prevention services and programs for children, youth and families.





# Membership

The Commission has a membership of 43 voting individuals: 20 public officials, 5 members at-large, 9 nonprofit or non-governmental organizations, 6 regional collaborative representatives, and 3 consumers.

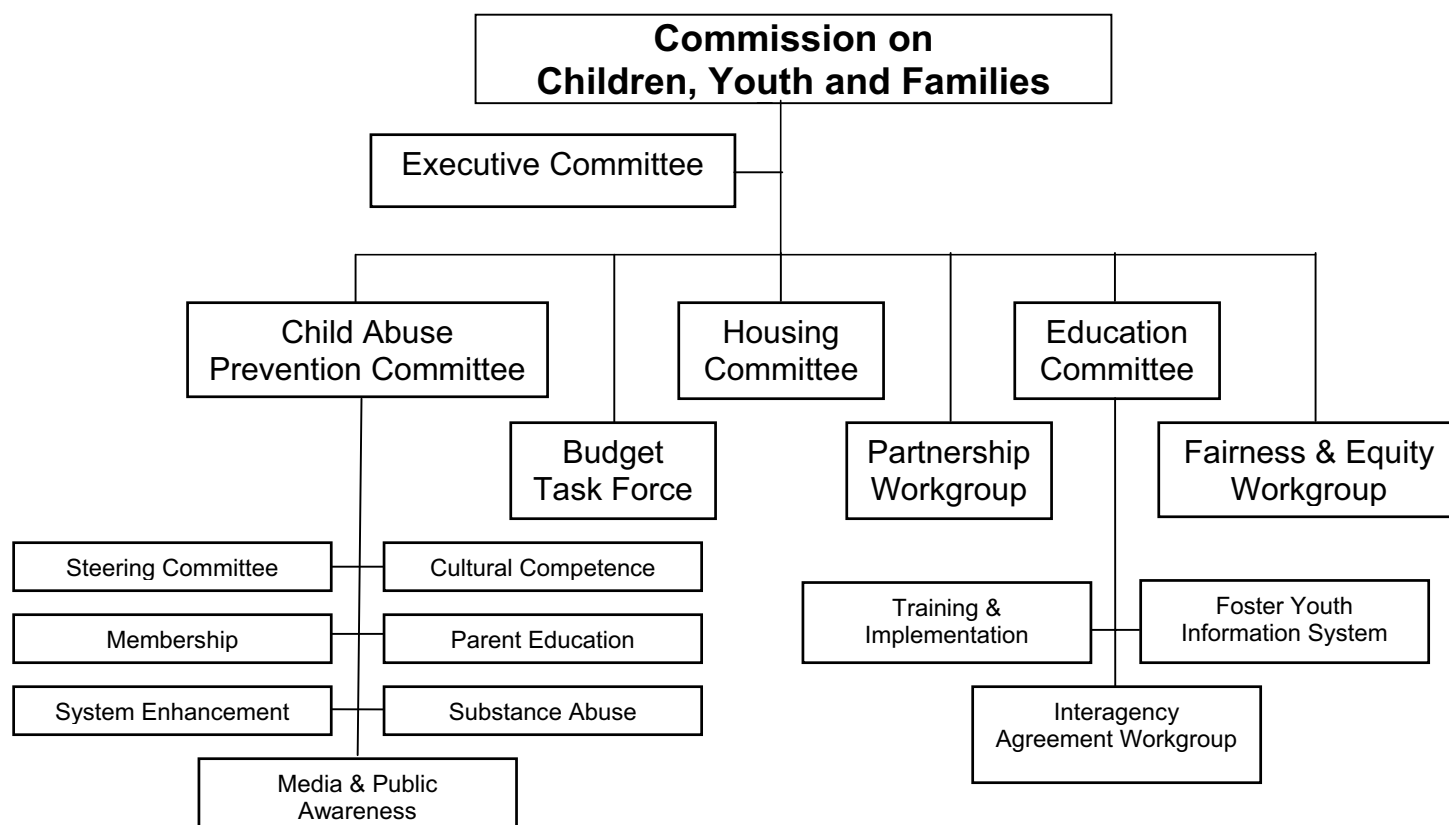
- **Honorable Susan Huguenor**, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court (Chair)
- **Supervisor Greg Cox**, Board of Supervisors
- **Bill Kolender**, Sheriff
- **Bonnie Dumanis**, District Attorney
- **Vincent Iaria**, Chief Probation Officer
- **Jean Shepard**, Director, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Nancy Bowen**, M.D., Public Health Officer, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Alfredo Aguirre**, Director, Children's Mental Health Services, Health and Human Services Agency
- **Mary Harris**, Director, Child Welfare Services, Health and Human Services Agency
- **John Sansone**, County Counsel
- **Constance M. Carroll**, Ph.D., Chancellor, San Diego Community College District
- **Rudy Castruita**, Ed.D., County Superintendent of Schools
- **Barbara Ryan**, San Diego County School Boards Association
- **Catherine Trout**, Director, County of San Diego Department of Housing and Community Development
- **Debbie de los Santos**, Representative, State Agency
- **Renée Bahl**, Director, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department
- **Terrell Salmon**, Director, County of San Diego Farm and Home Advisor
- **Ana España**, Representative, Office of the Public Defender
- **George Cameron**, Ed.D., Superintendent, National School District
- **Carl A. Cohn**, Ed.D., Superintendent, San Diego Unified School District
- **Ron Zappelli**, Representative, Supervisorial District One
- **JoAnne Bushby**, Representative, Supervisorial District Two
- **Jeanette Day**, Representative, Supervisorial District Three
- **Debra Fitzgerald**, Representative, Supervisorial District Four
- **Katherine Smith-Brooks**, Representative, Supervisorial District Five
- **Sylvia Selverston**, Chair, San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council
- **Sandy McBrayer**, Executive Director, Children's Initiative
- **Teresa Stivers**, Executive Director, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation
- **Sharon Lawrence**, Executive Director, Voices for Children
- **Raymond Peterson**, M.D., Executive Director, San Diego Regional Center
- **Margaret Iwanaga-Penrose**, President/CEO, Union of Pan Asian Communities
- **Vivian Reznik**, M.D., Representative, American Academy of Pediatrics
- **Rev. Nancy Mitchell**, Representative, Faith Community
- **Leslie Hine-Rabichow**, Representative, San Diego Association of Nonprofits
- **Paula Guerra-Lynch**, Ph.D., Representative, Central Region Collaborative
- **Robin Wood**, Representative, East Region Collaborative
- **Mary Baum**, Representative, North Central Region Collaborative
- **Vacant**, Representative, North Coastal Region Collaborative
- **Phil Harris**, Representative, North Inland Region Collaborative
- **Jo Ann Leone**, Representative, South Region Collaborative
- **Inez Corona**, Consumer Representative
- **Donna Ewing Marto**, Consumer Representative
- **Daphne Watson**, Consumer Representative



The Executive Committee provides direction to Commission staff and makes interim decisions on issues that require timely action.

## Executive Committee Members:

**Honorable Susan Huguenor**, Juvenile Court (Chair)  
**Vivian Reznik, M.D.**, American Academy of Pediatrics (Vice Chair)  
**Nan D'Anna**, San Diego Regional Center (Secretary)  
**JoAnne Bushby**, Representative, Supervisorial District Two  
**Vincent Iaria**, Probation Department  
**Roseann Myers**, Commission on Children, Youth and Families  
**Lynn Neault**, San Diego Community College District  
**Barbara Ryan**, San Diego County School Boards Association  
**Jean Shepard**, Health and Human Services Agency



# Child Abuse Prevention Committee (CAPC)

## Accomplishments

- 2,204 people received training related to child abuse prevention this year
- 4th Annual Parenting Conference attracted more than 300 parents and caregivers
- Safe4Baby Campaign unveiled on September 22, 2005
- Diversity Schoolhouse continued to be a success
- For Child Abuse Prevention Month, STARS Awards were given to:
  - Karen Bloch, volunteer Kids and Teens in Court Program
  - Nancy Deutsch, Social Worker for San Diego City Schools
  - Lorena Ortiz, Central Region Child Welfare Services
  - Michael Weinrick, East Region, Child Welfare Services

## Background

In February 2002, the Board of Supervisors designated the Commission as the local child abuse prevention council. CAPC has specific mandates outlined in State Welfare and Institutions Code 18982:

- To provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases.
- To promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment.
- To encourage and facilitate training of professionals in the detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- To recommend improvements in services to families and victims.
- To encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs.

**Vision:** A community where families are supported and children are safe and healthy.

**Mission:** To prevent and respond to child maltreatment and family violence by coordinating community efforts and promoting awareness, advocacy and education.

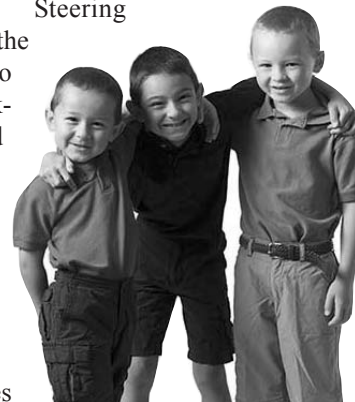


## Projects & Activities

The CAPC meets monthly to develop, support and coordinate community efforts and awareness to prevent child abuse and heal its effects. Attendees include County

staff, community providers, foster parents, school personnel, and others interested in child abuse prevention in San Diego county. The projects and activities of the CAPC are accomplished through the following subcommittees:

**CAPC Steering Committee:** The CAPC Steering Committee facilitates CAPC meetings, plans the committee activities and develops an annual action plan. The Steering Committee conducted a workgroup planning meeting in July 2005 to determine how to fully engage committee members and increase involvement in the committee and the workgroups. After analyzing the results of the workgroup planning meeting, the Steering Committee made changes to the format of CAPC meetings to include more time for workgroups to plan and discuss. The new meeting format includes introductions and announcements, a featured speaker/training component, workgroup meeting time, and workgroup updates at the conclusion of each meeting. Since these changes were applied, there has been an increase in participation at the CAPC meetings, as well as at CAPC workgroup meetings.



The Steering Committee also planned Child Abuse Prevention Month activities. This year the CAPC participated in the statewide "It Only Takes a Minute..." blue wristband campaign from Prevent Child Abuse California and the national Prevent Child Abuse America Campaign, "Safe Children and Healthy Families are a Shared Responsibility." The Steering Committee developed palm cards to hand out at meetings and events that provide the national and state child abuse prevention messages and information about joining the Child Abuse Prevention Committee.

**Child Fatality Review:** (Restricted committee due to the nature of the information) This committee reviews on a monthly basis children and youth deaths, which come to the attention of the Office of the Medical Examiner. The purpose of the review is to facilitate communication and coordination among those systems or agencies providing protection and services to children, as well as those agencies responsible for investigating reports of child endangerment.

**Cultural Competence:** The Cultural Competence subcommittee plans a monthly training series called Diversity Schoolhouse, designed to help frontline workers within the social services, law enforcement and educator fields improve their communication with and understanding of various ethnic, cultural, religious, and other diverse groups in our community. This training is sponsored with the Union of Pan Asian Communities, San Diego CHOICE Program, and the County Diversity Advisory Council.



**Media and Public Awareness:** The Media and Public Awareness subcommittee promotes public awareness of prevention, intervention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. To support community prevention efforts, materials and information brochures are distributed to schools and community groups throughout the year. In 2005, approximately 10,023 pieces of prevention and educational materials were distributed in English and Spanish. To promote Child Abuse Awareness month, 2,000 child abuse awareness blue wristbands were distributed to County staff and community members. The Media and Public Awareness workgroup also developed a "Safe Sleeping" brochure which was included in the new Safe4Baby campaign materials released in September 2005.

**Membership:** This new workgroup was formed in May to define CAPC membership and develop strategies to increase attendance and commitment to the CAPC. This group developed a commitment statement for the Child Abuse Prevention Committee for all new people to sign to become members and for existing committee members to reaffirm their commitment.

**Parent Education Task Force:** The Parent Education Task Force provides a forum for parent educators to network with one another, learn about new programs, and share curriculum and best practices. The Parent Education Task Force also plans the annual parenting conference. Community Services for Families contracts provide community-based support services for families at-risk or involved in the child welfare system. One important component of these contracts is parent education classes. Child Welfare Services staff requested guidance to ensure quality programs for the families. The Task Force developed an evaluation tool for evaluating parenting curriculum and program guidelines for the parent education component of the contracts.

**Substance Abuse and Families:** This new workgroup was created as part of the July action planning session. Several attendees felt there was a significant need for a workgroup to focus on the issues of substance abusing parents and child abuse prevention.

**System Enhancement:** The System Enhancement subcommittee works to improve services in communities by developing community capacity for a comprehensive network of opportunities and resources to support the needs of children and their families along the child welfare continuum.

**Southern Counties Coalition of Child Abuse Prevention Councils:** The Commission is an active participant in this coalition sponsored by the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention. This group is an intercounty coalition to prevent child abuse by coordinating efforts, leveraging resources, and raising awareness. The group co-sponsored a one-day workshop with the Child Abuse Training and Technical Assistance Center called "Strengthening Child Abuse Prevention through Action Planning" on May 18, 2005. The technical advisors reviewed the Welfare and Institutions Code on Child Abuse Prevention Councils to ensure compliance with code mandates and San Diego committee members developed priorities for the year.

**Collaboration with San Diego Domestic Violence Council:** The CAPC made collaboration with the San Diego Domestic Violence Council (SDDVC) on issues related to chil-

dren exposed to violence a top priority for the year. This year the San Diego Domestic Violence Council, the Waitt Family Foundation, and the Commission CAPC co-sponsored a two-day conference on domestic violence prevention.

## Trainings & Conferences

### April 5, 2005 "Child Abuse Prevention Month Kickoff"

The CAPC sponsored a training event for professionals at Marina Village to kickoff Child Abuse Prevention Month. Dr. Joe Price, Associate Director at the Child and Adolescent Research Center and Professor of Psychology at SDSU presented information on "Evidence Based Behavioral Approaches to Parenting" and Manolo Guillen, San Diego Youth and Community Services, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Project, B-SAFFE Project and Deputy Rick Castro, San Diego County Sheriff's Department provided a presentation on "The Exploitation of Children: San Diego's Response." 117 professionals were in attendance. At the event, committee members recognized the following individuals with STARS awards for their work in the field of child abuse prevention: Karen Bloch, volunteer Kids and Teens in Court Program; Nancy Deutsch, Social Worker for San Diego City Schools; Lorena Ortiz, Central Region Child Welfare Services; Michael Weinrick, East Region Child Welfare Services.

### April 20, 2005 "Missed Abusive Head Trauma"

The CAPC co-sponsored a lecture by Cindy Kuelbs M.D. and Lynn Kaufhold, M.D. with Chadwick Center at Children's Hospital with 25 attendees.

### April 30, 2005 "4th Annual Parenting Conference: Celebrating Families"

The Parent Education Task Force organized the annual parenting conference, which was attended by approximately 300 parents and caregivers. The keynote speakers, Alina Rosario and Moises Roman from the PBS series "Los Niños en su Casa" discussed ways to encourage reading in children. Participants then attended a variety of workshops on topics such as bullying, homework, step parenting, and many others. To close the event, Jane Clifford, Family Editor of the San Diego Union Tribune, gave the luncheon address on "Finding Family Time."

### July 16, 2005 "Guiding the Lives of Children of Divorce and Separation"

The San Diego Family Law Council for Children, in association with the Commission presented this half day conference for parents, teachers and caregivers on the impact of divorce on children. The event featured keynote speaker Constance Ahrons, Ph.D. author of "The Good Divorce" and "We're Still Family: What Grown Children Have to Say About Their Parents Divorce". Additional topics discussed included parental communication issues and high conflict families. Approximately 150 people attended the event.

### September 22, 2005 "Bridges Out of Poverty"

The CAPC collaborated with Strategies Training and Technical Assistance Center to provide this half day workshop on poverty. Jodi Pfarr from the Aha Process, Inc. facilitated the event which focused on hidden rules among classes, communication styles and barriers, and improving outcomes for individuals from generational poverty. Approximately 195 participants were in attendance.



**October 7, 2005 “Promoting Healthy Relationships Across the Lifespan”** This conference, geared towards professionals in fields related to family violence, was co-sponsored with the Waitt Family Foundation and the San Diego Domestic Violence Council. Two hundred participants filled the conference room at the Hall of Champions at Balboa Park to hear keynote speakers, Dr. Linda Chamberlain, speak about children exposed to violence and pathways to prevention, and Dr. Annette Goodheart who discussed about Laughter as Therapy. Workshops were offered in four tracks: children, teens, adults, and older adults on a variety of topics related to family violence prevention.

**October 8, 2005 “Express Yourself”** In commemoration of domestic violence awareness month, the CAPC contributed to the planning of a community resource fair held at Balboa Park where youth and families participated in a variety of fun activities and listened to live bands while gathering valuable resources and information related to having healthy relationships and violence prevention. Approximately 500 people visited the community fair.

**As part of the CAPC's regular monthly meetings, the following trainings were provided:**

<b>January 24, 2005</b>	Case Managing the Pregnant Addict San Diego Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Program (30 attendees)
<b>February 28, 2005</b>	Community Services for Families The San Diego Guild for Infant Survival (32 attendees)
<b>March 28, 2005</b>	Creating Solutions Together: Family-Youth-Professional Partnership SAFE Paths Sexual Abuse Group Treatment Program (32 attendees)
<b>April 25, 2005</b>	San Pasqual Academy Youth Panel (38 attendees)
<b>May 23, 2005</b>	Family-to-Family Program Child Welfare System Improvement Plan 2005-2007 (20 attendees)
<b>June 27, 2005</b>	FLIGHT (Families Living In Good Health Together) Program Working with Youth in the Juvenile Justice System (24 attendees)
<b>July 25, 2005</b>	Membership Commitment Workgroup Action Planning (35 attendees)
<b>September 26, 2005</b>	Haven's Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team (MDT) (40 attendees)
<b>October 24, 2005</b>	Animal Safehouse Program DV Program for Asian and Pacific Islander Women Raising the Bar Update (33 attendees)

**December 12, 2005** County Adoptions Program

**Diversity Schoolhouse trainings held throughout the year included:**

<b>January 18, 2005</b>	Living with HIV/AIDS (51 attendees)
<b>February 15, 2005</b>	Filipino Community (53 attendees)
<b>March 29, 2005</b>	Hate Crimes (55 attendees)
<b>April 19, 2005</b>	Kurdish Community (36 attendees)
<b>May 17, 2005</b>	Survivors of Torture (51 attendees)
<b>June 21, 2005</b>	Eritrean Community (32 attendees)
<b>July 19, 2005</b>	Muslim Religion (41 attendees)
<b>September 20, 2005</b>	Indian Community (60 attendees)
<b>November 15, 2005</b>	Deaf Community (26 attendees)

## Future Direction

- 5th Annual Parenting Conference, “Nurturing the Whole Child” will be held on March 4, 2006
- The CAPC will be partnering with the Office of Violence Prevention for the “Safe Start” conference tentatively scheduled for Fall 2006
- CAPC members will provide input into the Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan
- Cultural Competence will continue to sponsor Diversity Schoolhouse

## CAPC Steering Committee Members:

**Sterling Alexander**, Union of Pan Asian Communities (Chair)

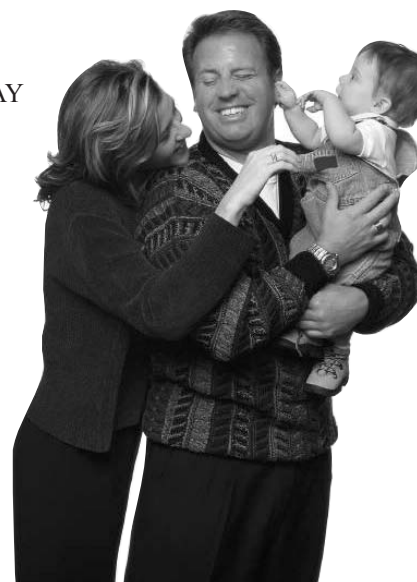
**Debbie Comstock**, Little House Family Services

**Jo Ann Leone**, South Bay Community Services

**Amanda Quayle**, San Diego Domestic Violence Council

**Shelley Turner**,  
Children's Hospital,  
Chadwick Center

**Cristofina Willson**, SAY  
San Diego



# Education Committee

## Accomplishments

- Committee members revised the Interagency Agreement to clarify the roles and responsibilities of agencies, schools and care providers to support foster and probation youth education
- Three College Connection events successfully introduced 191 youth to post-secondary education
- 25 social workers, school personnel and group home representatives were certified in the Casey Family Programs “Endless Dreams” curriculum at an event on October 17, 2005

## Background

The purpose of the Education Committee is to provide oversight, support and coordination of programs and policies that lead to improved educational outcomes for youth within the dependency and delinquency systems. For efficiency and to reduce duplication of efforts, the Committee also functions as the County Office of Education Foster Youth Services Advisory Committee.

## Projects & Activities

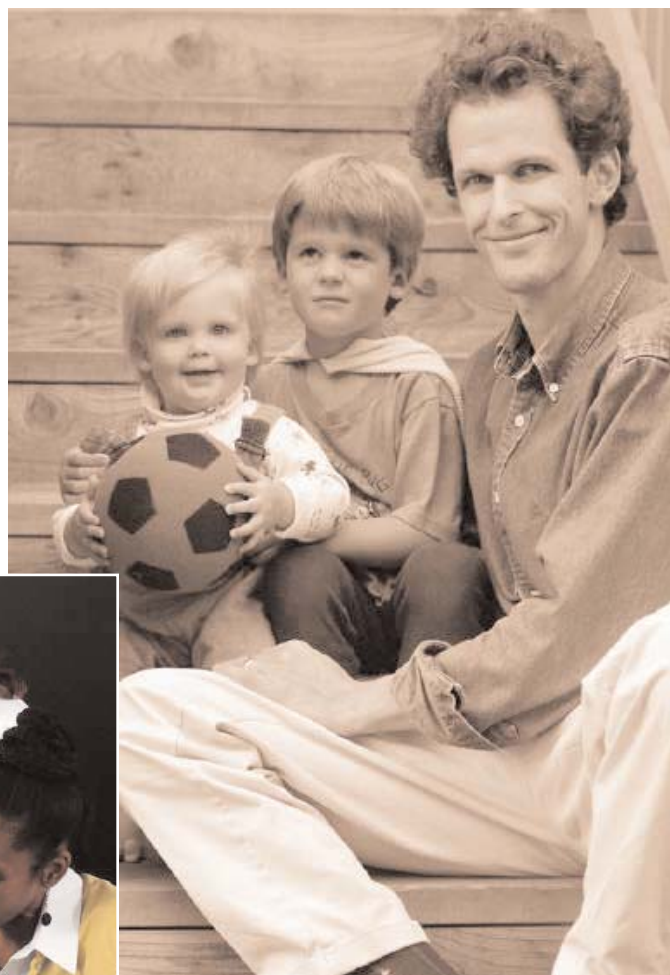
### Revision of Countywide Interagency Agreement:

Building on the need to update the Countywide Interagency Agreement, the group sponsored six forums in September 2004 to discuss how to improve, strengthen the agreement and develop strategies for ensuring responsibility. The results of the forums were analyzed and presented at the January 2005 meeting for feedback.

A workgroup comprised of representatives from agencies included in the agreement met throughout the year to formulate a draft Interagency Agreement that is comprehensive and includes all relevant mandates, policies, forms, and definitions in addition to clarifying the role of each participating entity.

The working draft was disseminated for review to all involved constituents in December 2005. The committee plans to invite all San Diego county school districts to be a party to this agreement.

**Foster Youth Information System (FYIS):** San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) and Foster Youth Services (FYS) began the conversion process for the FYIS. The conversion involves housing this Web based information system on SDCOE’s server, utilizing SDCOE’s Student Information System (SIS), JWEB and CWS/CMS as data sources. The conversion process will not affect usability of the FYIS system, and is expected to be completed by May 2006. The conversion will include system upgrades including filters. FYS has provided a variety of trainings on AB 490, McKinney Vento Act and other laws pertaining to the education of foster youth. One future issue the subcommittee will be working on is obtaining information from non-public schools to populate the system.





**Training and Implementation:** The Training and Implementation subcommittee plans training based on needs identified by the Education Committee. Trainings on legislation and legal mandates, services offered by SDCOE and FYS, educational advocacy for foster youth, and the FYIS have been delivered to Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) social workers and supervisors, probation officers, Independent Living Skills (ILS) case managers, Juvenile Court and Community Schools staff, school district staff, substitute care providers, and teachers.

**College Connection:** The FYS College Connection Advisory Council (CCAC) and the resulting events are a partnership of FYS, community colleges, state universities, California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) EdFund and California Student Opportunity and Access Program (CalSOAP), HHSA Child Welfare Services (CWS) - Adolescent Services, ILS contractors and other service providers. The CCAC responds to the needs voiced by current and emancipated foster youth regarding access to and support in higher education. The CCAC works together to identify gaps and create a countywide outreach effort targeting our foster care population. This year, the group planned a total of three campus hosted College Connection events at Miramar College, Cuyamaca College and Cal State San Marcos with 191 total youth in attendance. The College Connection Advisory Council also co-sponsored one College Prep Workshop for service providers. HHSA-ILS provided information about the ILS program and services available, Chaffee Grant application and scholarship opportunities. EdFund provided information regarding the financial aid and Cal Grant process and timelines. A total of 45 social workers, ILS contractors, foster parents, group home staff, CASAs, and school personnel attended this informative workshop.

**Fulton Elementary:** At the April meeting, Debra Newton, foster parent and Carol King, school principal, discussed the large population of foster children at Fulton Elementary and the special challenges it creates. Some of the key issues and problems identified were behavior problems, attendance and the need for tutoring for academic support. A meeting was held at Fulton Elementary attended by presiding judge of Juvenile Court San Diego, school staff, general and special education district staff, HHSA Child Welfare Services staff, a supervising attorney from the Office of Public Defender, and Commission staff. The group brainstormed the following strategies: implement a new school-wide positive behavior management plan in September, explore providing more mental health services, assist families in signing up for Medi-Cal, and assist with legal guardianships.

In September, Edward Caballero, Fulton Elementary vice principal, provided a progress report on new support implemented for the new school year including a new discipline model and increased mental health services. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to determine progress and next steps in early 2006.



## Trainings & Conferences

**May 19, 2005 "Roadmap to Improved Educational Outcomes for Foster Youth"** The Education Committee hosted an event on May 19, 2005, with 58 participants. The featured speaker was John Emerson, Educational Expert from Casey Family Programs, followed by breakout sessions to identify specific needs in regions. The results of the breakout sessions were presented at the May committee meeting. The Training and Implementation subcommittee will review the results for future training plans.

**October 17, 2005 "Endless Dreams: Training for Trainers"** The Training and Implementation Subcommittee held a Training for Trainers event on the Casey Family Programs "Endless Dreams" curriculum at San Diego County Office of Education. Approximately 25 social workers, school personnel and group home representatives were in attendance. The first part of the day included an overview of related laws from Ana España, San Diego County Office of the Public Defender. Debbie Staub, Manager, Education K-12, Casey Family Programs, facilitated the Endless Dreams training.

## Future Direction

- Interagency Agreement training will be implemented with all parties involved
- Annual School District Foster Care Liaison Meetings will be implemented
- FYS joining Casey Family Programs/HHSA/California State University, San Marcos Tutor Connection partnership

## Committee Members:

**Honorable Susan Huguenor**, Juvenile Court (Co-Chair)

**Barbara Ryan**, County School Boards Association (Co-Chair)

**Karen Alexander**, La Mesa Spring Valley School District

**Lyn Angene**, Juvenile Court

**Tammy Burmeister**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Jorge Cabrera**, Casey Family Programs

**Pablo Carrillo**, Probation Department

**Cindy Charron**, Voices for Children

**Margaret Dalton**, USD Legal Clinic

**Patty Danon**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Ana España**, San Diego County Office of the Public Defender

**Gerald Fare**, New Alternatives

**Diane Ferreira**, Health and Human Services Agency, Policy & Program Support Division

**Tracy Fried**, San Diego County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services (Former)

**Barry Fox**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Timothy Glover**, Sweetwater Union High School District

**Kelly Gondek**, Child Abuse Prevention Foundation

**Erin Han**, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program

**Pam Hosmer**, San Diego City Schools

**Bruce Huntington**

**Claudette Inge**, San Diego County Office of Education

**Liz Lebron**, San Diego County Office of Education

**Michelle Lustig**, San Diego County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services

**Barbara Montfort**, Casey Family Programs

**Violeta Mora**, San Diego County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services

**Jose Preciado**, San Diego State University

**Judith Quinn**, HHSA, Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care

**Gina Serna**, Oceanside Unified School District

**Susan Strom**, County Counsel

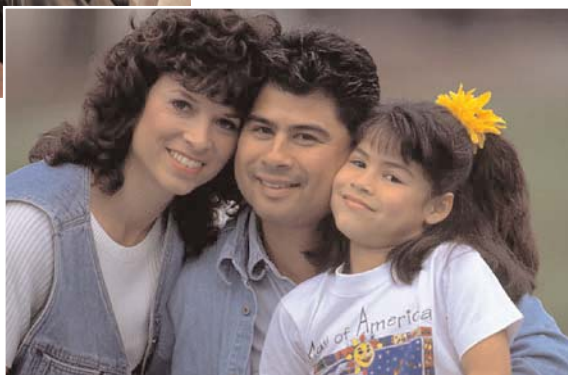
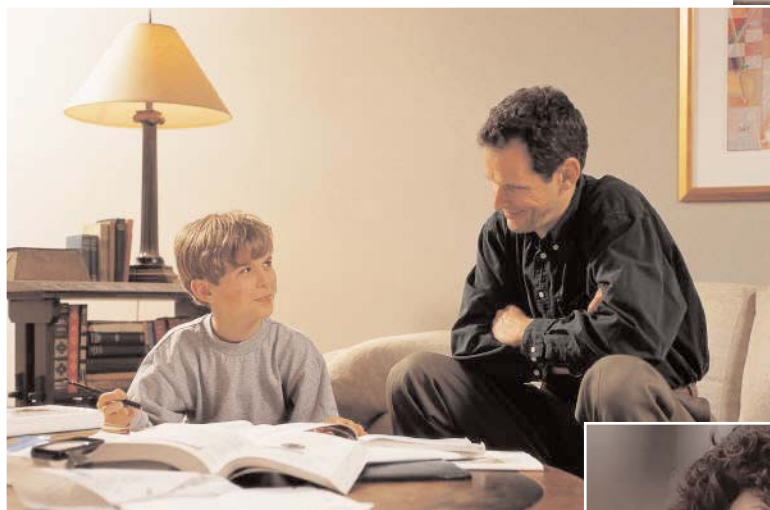
**Tracy Thompson**, Juvenile Court and Community Schools

**Antonia Torres**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Judith Van Brocklin**, San Diego County Office of Education

**Melinda Verbon**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services (former)

**Sylvia Volz**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services





# Housing Committee

## Accomplishments

- The Committee identified the needs of youth for inclusion in the "Blueprint to End Homelessness," a 10-year plan to eradicate homelessness in San Diego county
- Members developed a comprehensive survey tool to assess the needs of youth entering and exiting transitional living programs
- A Strategic Plan was formulated to outline the committee's scope of work

## Background

The purpose of the Housing committee is to focus on the development of policies and programs to assure the housing needs of children and families are met and receive sustainable support.

## Projects & Activities

### HOME Program for Emancipated Foster Youth:

Housing and Community Development (HCD) in collaboration with Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services, ILS Program provides tenant based rental assistance in a program specifically designed to serve youth who have exited foster care. The goal of the program is to provide housing and support services, which will promote employment and education, while the young adults establish rental and credit histories. The program has the capacity to serve a minimum of 57 youth. The number will vary based on the amount of rental subsidies and the rental market. Currently there are 59 youth housed in this program. ILS and HCD are working together to lease the program to its capacity.

**HCD Update:** The lack of adequate housing is a significant barrier for returning children to the home. To address this issue, the Department of Housing and Community Development began the new locally funded Family Reunification Pilot Program and has received its first 12 referrals from HHSA, Child Welfare Services this year. The program offers tenant based rental assistance for up to 15 Substance Abuse Recovery

Management System (SARMS) participants for up to 24 months. The program was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 7, 2004, and is an integral component of the Dependency Court Recovery Project. Eligible participants have an active Juvenile Dependency Court case and at least three months of documented sobriety. SARMS Wraparound contractors will provide case management and treatment supervision.

**Strategic Planning:** The committee developed a work plan with the following goals: 1) Foster the development of expanded housing opportunities across the continuum for homeless and emancipating foster youth, 2) Prevent homelessness among emancipating youth, 3) Expand outreach efforts and engagement of homeless youth, and 4) Enhance the ability of homeless services programs to effectively serve homeless youth. The committee is developing and prioritizing strategies and actions to assist in accomplishing these goals and assigning a lead person to each part of the work plan.

**Youth Survey:** One item identified on the work plan is the development of a housing needs survey for youth entering and exiting transitional living programs. The committee reviewed existing outcome information available for transitioning youth. A draft survey was developed, with the assistance of Michelle Lustig from San Diego County Office of Education, which will allow youth to provide feedback on the utilization of housing options and services. The survey will be administered in early 2006.

### Blueprint to End Homelessness and Discharge

**Planning:** Pat Leslie, a consultant to HCD, provided the committee with an overview of Strategic Planning for homeless individuals and families in the San Diego region. The committee reviewed special issues for youth "timing out" of care systems. The committee will develop profiles of youth that are currently not being served and provide the information to HCD. Pat Leslie also provided forms to the committee to solicit feedback on portions of the Blueprint pertaining to youth specifically in the areas of program barriers, goals, objectives, action steps, and resource identification. Committee members completed the feedback forms and Commission staff compiled the information to submit.

**Youth Runaways:** At the May committee meeting, the group began discussions on youth runaways. At the July meeting, Amy Garcia presented on the Street Outreach Program, which is a collaboration among San Diego Youth and Community Services (SDYCS), South Bay Community Services (SBCS), and YMCA. This program makes approximately 3,000 contacts per year with youth. The outreach team is a young, diverse group who work on building relationships with the youth. Next steps in the area of runaways will include a presentation from law enforcement.



**Youth Employment Preparation Program:** The second year of this program began on August 26, 2005. The Youth Employment Preparation Program is a collaboration of HCD, Casey Family Programs and ACCESS Inc. This program serves youth residing in the Housing Authority's Rental Assistance Program giving them a six-month paid employment training opportunity with County departments within the Community Services Group. The program includes job coaching, transportation vouchers, savings match, and driver's education/training incentives. Currently, eight youth are enrolled in the program and have been placed with the Registrar of Voters, Animal Services, Libraries, General Services, Housing and Community Development, and Purchasing and Contracting.

## Future Direction

- Continue development, dissemination and analysis of the committee's youth survey
- The Committee will continue to focus on youth runaways and invite law enforcement into their discussions
- Inventory of current housing resources for youth

## Committee Members:

**Karen Alexander**, La Mesa Spring Valley School District

**Lyn Angene**, Juvenile Court

**Stephanie Beazley**, YMCA Transitional Living Program

**Patty Danon**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Jeanette Day**, Representative, Supervisorial District Three

**Dolores Diaz**, Department of Housing and Community Development

**Matthew Doherty**, Corporation for Supportive Housing

**Amy Garcia**, San Diego Youth & Community Services

**Geri Garcia**, South Bay Community Services

**Tim Gonzales**, South Bay Community Services

**Debra Fitzgerald**, Representative, Supervisorial District Four

**Lois Kenneally**, Casey Family Programs

**Patrick Loose**, The Center, San Diego County

**Melissa Lytle**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Elizabeth McPhail**, private citizen

**Rhonda Sarmiento**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Anzette Shackelford**, Health and Human Services Agency, Independent Living Skills Program

**Ken Tyner**, YMCA Transitional Living Program

**Sylvia Volz**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services





# Budget Task Force

## Accomplishments

- Developed an advisory board statement for FY 05-06
- Provided input into the Health and Human Services Agency Strategy Agenda for FY 06-07

## Background

This Task Force was initially formed to respond to a request by HHSA to provide input on child welfare and other programs for FY 04-05 budget. When this charge was completed the committee began to explore how to monitor the impacts of budget reductions on the child serving system. The following charge for the Task Force evolved: develop an outcome and indicator framework to facilitate budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for funding allocations for children, youth and families.

## Projects & Activities

The Budget Task Force drafted an advisory board statement on behalf of the Commission for FY 05-06. In their statement to the Board of Supervisors, the Budget Task Force stressed the significance of a community input process in making budget related decisions and the importance of a prevention focus in community programs funded with County money.

HHSA Strategy and Planning Division presented the draft version of the Agency Strategy Agenda to the Budget Task Force for feedback in July of this year. The Budget Task Force provided input into the goals and measures for the Strategy Agenda for the upcoming FY 06-07.

The Budget Task Force has a set of indicators under development to gauge the impacts of budget decisions. The group has begun to evaluate tools and measures utilized by Probation, Child Welfare Services, and Mental Health Services. The work on outcomes and indicators will be given to a standing committee in 2006. A Budget Task Force will be reformed if input is sought by County departments.

## Future Direction

- Respond to requests for budget input
- Outcomes and indicators will be assigned to a standing committee



## Committee Members:

**JoAnne Bushby**, Representative, Supervisorial District Two (Chair)

**Lyn Angene**, Juvenile Court

**Kim Broderick**, Probation Department

**Debra Fitzgerald**, Representative, Supervisorial District Four

**Rosa Ana Lozada-Garcia**, Health and Human Services Agency, Children's Mental Health Services

**Leslie Hine-Rabichow**, San Diego Association of Nonprofits

**Sylvia Selverston**, San Diego County Child Care and Development Planning Council

**Katherine Smith-Brooks**, Representative, Supervisorial District Five

# Fairness and Equity Workgroup

## Accomplishments

- In an effort to build a common language, the workgroup attended "Undoing Racism," a 2-day workshop presented by the People's Institute
- Participated in Peer Technical Assistance (TA) with King County, Washington leaders in addressing disproportionality in child welfare
- The workgroup provided input to the Fairness and Equity section of the Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan

## Background

The Fairness and Equity Workgroup was formed in January 2005, to examine the issue of the overrepresentation of persons of color in child serving systems.

## Projects & Activities

**Strategic Planning:** As this was a new group, members decided they wanted to participate in a structured strategic planning to set goals and milestones and to develop a shared vision and purpose for the workgroup. In February, Paul Watson from Watson & Associates International facilitated a strategic planning exercise. As a result, the Fairness and Equity Workgroup developed a work plan with the following areas of focus: resource development & oversight, social marketing, improved practice through training, innovative assessment & decision making, and culturally competent workforce.

**Child Welfare System Improvement Plan:** In April, the workgroup was asked to assist in the update to the Fairness and Equity section of the Child Welfare Services System Improvement Plan (SIP) due to the state. The group used the strategies and actions identified during the strategic planning process to formulate this section of the SIP.

**Peer TA Match:** Peer technical assistance is an approach that rapidly disseminates information about successful practices, policies and tools related to a defined issue, concern or challenge through technical assistance. Peer TA is solution-focused and occurs through a process of joint problem-solving between a team of individuals who is requesting assistance and a team of peer consultants who has first-hand experience related to the targeted issue. Peer TA benefits both the TA recipient and peer consulting team. Peer TA:

- Increases knowledge and mutual learning
- Results in the development and implementation of an action plan
- Accelerates the pace of change



San Diego was matched with King County, Washington for peer technical assistance on fairness and equity issues in the child welfare system. King County began their task force several years ago and has made progress and gathered knowledge to share with the San Diego workgroup. Convened by the chief juvenile court judge, the task force works to reduce the disproportionate representation of children of color in the child welfare system and remedy the disparity in outcomes. In August, selected participants from the workgroup participated in a conference call with King County and the coordinator from Casey Family Programs to start discussions and plan meeting dates and agendas. The Peer TA meeting occurred on November 8 and 9 in San Diego.

## Trainings & Conferences

**August 22/23, 2005 "Undoing Racism"** In an effort to build a common language and understanding about fairness and equity, the workgroup attended "Undoing Racism Symposium" presented by the People's Institute. This 2-day workshop moves beyond a focus on the symptoms of racism to an understanding of what it is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists, and how it can be undone. The workshop's systemic approach stresses learning from history, developing leadership, and maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized oppression, and understanding the role of organizational gate keeping in perpetuating racism. Twenty-six workgroup members attended this training.





## Future Direction

- Research implementing two strategies used by King County, Washington
- Engagement of community members in discussion of disproportionality
- Educate stakeholders on the issue and effects of disproportionality

## Committee Members:

**Daphyne Watson**, Consumer Representative (Chair)

**Lyn Angene**, Juvenile Court

**Brenda Battle**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Patricia Bevelyn**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Jorge Cabrera**, Casey Family Programs

**Marilyn English**, California Youth Advocate Program

**Diane Ferreira**, Health and Human Services Agency, Policy and Program Support Division

**Jennifer Fightlin**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Sandy Fowler**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Duncan Fraser**, Sheriff

**Lisa Fulmore**, Health and Human Services Agency, Training and Development

**Marty Giffin**, San Diego Center for Children

**Lynne Guzman**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Joan Landguth**, California Youth Advocate Program

**Elizabeth Locano**, Health and Human Services Agency, Policy and Program Support Division

**Anita Lonzo**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Donna Ewing Marto**, Family & Youth Roundtable of San Diego

**Aaron Mickaelian**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Job Moraido**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Debbie Newton**, foster parent

**Elizabeth Quinnett**, Public Child Welfare Training Academy

**Nilanie Ramos**, Health and Human Services Agency, Policy and Program Support Division

**Lydia Rochfort**, Southern Indian Health Council

**Leesa Solit**, Health and Human Services Agency, Policy and Program Support Division

**Ruth Supranovich**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Scott Watkins**, Probation Department

**Michael Weinrick**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Robin Wood**, La Mesa Spring Valley School District

**Debra Zanders-Willis**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services



# Partnership Transition Workgroup

## Accomplishments

- Collaborated on Community Assessment with multiple agencies
- Refined partnership concept and developed a commitment statement to share with potential partner groups to seek their participation
- Co-sponsored Children's System of Care Conference

## Background

The California Child Welfare Services Redesign Final Report envisioned a flexible local collaborative to ensure every county has broadly based partnerships to promote and support the capacity of families to keep their children safe, create a stable family environment and promote positive outcomes. In 2004, the San Diego Child Welfare Services Redesign Steering Committee was formed to translate the vision to local practice.

As the work of the San Diego Child Welfare Services Redesign Steering Committee progressed, it became clear that to best achieve the goal of strengthening and supporting families and communities, the inclusion of all child and family serving systems would be required. The committee's child welfare focus needed to be broadened to embrace parallel efforts for system change happening within juvenile justice, violence prevention, education, and mental health. The "San Diego County Partnership for Children, Youth, Families and Communities" (Partnership) was created and embodies the new direction, inviting child serving systems and community members including families and youth to unite in a public/private partnership of shared goals and accountability.

The purpose of the Partnership Workgroup is to serve as a transition team from the CWS Redesign Steering Committee into a broader initiative that embraces collaboration and coordination to improve outcomes for children, youth and families. Fundamental to the structure is the realization that the results sought exceed the capacity of any single entity to attain alone. This past year, the group has been actively working on joint projects while building a platform for this initiative.

## Projects & Activities

**Goals and Outcomes/Structure:** The workgroup has been working to clearly define the goals, outcomes and structure of the Partnership. The committee analyzed the goals and strategic plans of the partner groups to develop common goals, outcomes, aligned strategies, and a clear communication plan. The committee has developed a matrix to compare the partner groups in order to align mission and vision statements and strategies. The matrix includes the following components: purpose, vision, mission, values/principles, outcomes/goals, relation to County Strategic Plan, target population, legislative mandates if any, and membership of advisory body. After compiling this data, the partnership developed the following common purpose, vision and mission:

**Purpose:** To develop and strengthen partnerships among government, councils, commissions, associations, advisory bodies, and the community to develop the knowledge and skills needed to improve and integrate service delivery and outcomes for children, youth and families.

**Vision:** Government and community working together to support and empower youth and families.

**Mission:** To be a catalyst for system change by developing and aligning strategies and influencing policy to improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

**The Partnership will track progress in improving the following outcomes:**

- Functional, self-sufficient families
- Safe communities for families and safe families for children
- Healthy children, youth and families
- Children are ready for and succeeding in school

**The Partnership will influence systems to utilize the following strategies:**

- Integrate prevention and intervention programs across systems
- Develop and implement quality, responsive, integrated training and technical assistance
- Develop an accountability framework that identifies benchmarks, tactics and an evaluation process to measure success
- Identify, promote and assist in pursuing funding opportunities
- Integrate, leverage and coordinate existing funding
- Implement evidence-based practices
- Evaluate outcome measures and program effectiveness
- Integrate information/data management systems

**The Partnership supports the following values:**

- Collaboration and coordination among and between public and private organizations
- Input and shared responsibility of all members to improve public programs and policy
- Communities are supports to families and families are key to children's success
- Economic vitality is essential to build strong communities
- Families and youth as partners
- Cultural competency in program design, service provision and public policy recommendations



**Community Input Survey and Dialogues:** Several of the partner groups needed to collect community input for planning. The Partnership Workgroup decided to conduct the dialogues together and create a joint survey to send out to providers and community members to seek input. The surveys could be completed online or in written format and were distributed to service providers, consumers, and other community partners between February and May 2005. SANDAG compiled the data for the 721 responses received.

Coinciding with the survey, the following six community dialogues were held regionally with approximately 190 total participants:

- January 27, 2005 Central Region Alliance (41 providers)
- February 14, 2005 North County Lifeline (9 providers)
- February 17, 2005 East Region Collaborative Network (20 providers)
- February 28, 2005 North Central CEAF (19 providers)
- March 8, 2005 Chula Vista Community Collaborative (80 providers)
- March 18, 2005 North Inland CAFÉ (21 providers)

After the community dialogues, the Commission partnered with the Family & Youth Roundtable of San Diego to conduct consumer/community focus groups to gather more specific information. A total of five focus groups were conducted in Spanish and English with 55 total participants on the following dates:

- April 19, 2005 South Region (8 consumers)
- April 21, 2005 East Region (27 consumers)
- April 28, 2005 Central Region (4 consumers)
- May 27, 2005 North Central Region - Pregnant & Parenting Teens (12 consumers)
- June 14, 2005 North Regions (4 consumers)

The results of the survey and community dialogues clarified the priorities of community members. The number one need identified in each region of San Diego county was affordable housing, followed by transportation and child care. The community input also identified violence in the family and financial difficulties as the most challenging barriers that a family can encounter.

**Integrated Training:** One strategy identified by the Partnership Workgroup was to coordinate integrated training and technical assistance efforts in the county. In an effort to reduce duplication of efforts and meetings, the Partnership Workgroup researched existing workgroups in the county focused on cross-system training that could support this strategy of the workgroup. The Children's System of Care Wraparound Training Academy is the best equipped committee to house the "integrated training" component of the Partnership

and they added "aligning training efforts across systems" to their strategic plan for the year. The Integrated Training group is working to identify entities providing cross-system training and their training priorities, resources and contact information.

## Trainings & Conferences

**May 23, 2005 "4th Annual Children's System of Care Conference"** The Commission partnered with the Children System of Care Council for their annual conference. This year's event featured keynote "Sweet" Alice Harris who spoke about community organizing and Cindy Burke from SANDAG who shared the initial results of the Partnership Youth and Community Survey. Following the plenary, participants moved into breakout sessions divided by regions of the county. At the breakout session, participants analyzed the survey results for their specific regions and discussed the validity and implications of the data collected. Approximately 165 participants attended the event.

## Future Direction

- Solidify membership and commitment of partners
- Develop an integrated training plan
- Identify cross-system indicators to track progress on Partnership outcomes

## Committee Members:

**Walter Philips**, San Diego Youth & Community Services (Chair)

**Lyn Angene**, Juvenile Court

**Amelia Barile-Simon**, Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Violence Prevention

**Kim Broderick**, Probation Department

**JoAnne Bushby**, Representative, Supervisorial District Two

**Donna Ewing Marto**, Consumer Representative

**Marty Giffin**, San Diego Center for Children

**Kelly Henwood**, San Diego Workforce Partnership

**Liz Maruchau**, Health and Human Services Agency, Children's Mental Health

**Sandy McBrayer**, Children's Initiative

**Morgan McDaniel**, Commission on the Status of Women

**Amanda Quayle**, San Diego Domestic Violence Council

**Brook Smith**, Children's Initiative

**Yolanda Valdez**, Community Action Partnership

**Michael Weinrick**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

**Ken Worthington**, Probation Department

**Debra Zanders-Willis**, Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services

# Fiscal Planning and Oversight Responsibilities

## Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment; Community Based Child Abuse Prevention; and Promoting Safe and Stable Families Planning and Funding

The Commission is the designated advisory body for planning the State funded Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT), the federally funded Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP), and the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) programs. Effective with the new three-year funding cycle 2005-2008, the State required counties to submit a combined CAPIT, CBCAP and PSSF Plan and Application. The Commission, as the designated advisory body for these funding streams, developed and received Board approval to submit the Plan and Application on September 20, 2005. This will result in \$3,626,495 in revenue per year based on FY 05-06 allocations.

The Plan highlighted the new service delivery model, Community Services for Families, which began September 1, 2004. The primary focus of this model is to provide a continuum of child welfare support services to assist at-risk families by providing safe and stable homes for their children. County staff is now able to make referrals to one lead agency in each of the six service regions for home visiting, parent education, kinship support, and family preservation and support services. This results in families getting the timely services they need, delivered in a culturally sensitive manner. The Commission is responsible for monitoring contract outcomes and recommending changes if necessary.

To comply with the new State requirements, the Commission was required to solicit community input and assess community needs. Through the Partnership Transition Workgroup, this process was done in collaboration with Probation, Children's Mental Health Services, and the Community Action Partnership. This planning process, further discussed in the Partnership section of this report, included a survey, community dialogues and consumer focus groups. In analyzing the results of the community dialogues and focus groups, there were several recurring themes. When discussing barriers or

challenges that youth and families in our communities are facing several issues emerged: housing, transportation, health care, education, and poverty. In the area of service needs and gaps, the most commonly discussed items at the focus groups and community dialogues were: affordable housing, counseling and mental health services, affordable health care, and education and school-related services.

In September 2005, the Commission staff also completed the CAPIT/CBCAP annual update report for State FY 04-05 and submitted it to the State. The annual update describes San Diego's progress toward achieving the goals described in the previous CAPIT/Community Based Family Resource and Support Programs Plan for 2002-2005.

## Children's Trust Fund

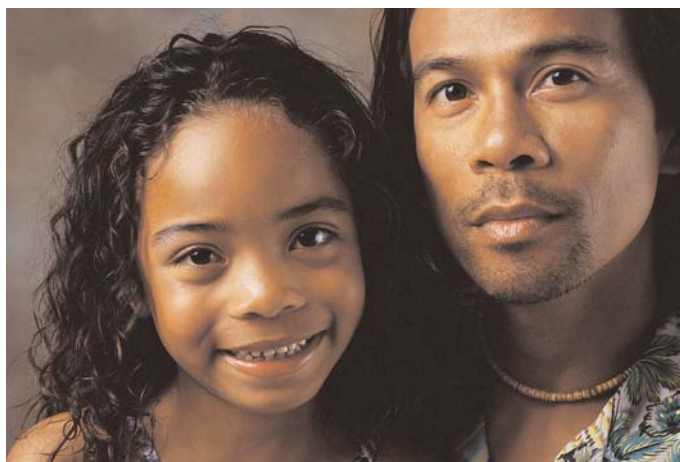
The Commission is designated by the Board of Supervisors to oversee the money in the Children's Trust Fund. The Trust Fund revenue is a portion of the fees collected from birth certificates. The balance of the Trust Fund at the end of FY 04-05 was \$3,413,681. The amount disbursed in that fiscal year was \$1,089,217.25.

The Welfare and Institutions Code requires the Trust Fund to be used to fund programs that prevent or ameliorate the effects of child abuse. The Board approved the Commission's recommendation to use the Children's Trust Fund as an additional financial resource for the Community Services for Families contracts.

## Interagency Children's Services (SB 997)

For purposes of compliance with the Welfare and Institutions Code, Chapter 12.8, Section 18986, the Commission is designated as the SB 997 Interagency Children and Youth Services Council. This legislation charges the Commission to support development of a comprehensive delivery system for local services provided to children and youth. This responsibility is the cornerstone of the Commission's mission and ongoing committee work. The Partnership Transition Workgroup will provide a new platform for the Commission to fulfill this mandate.

Healthy Start legislation (SB 620) requires the local SB 997 Council to review Healthy Start grant applications from all San Diego county school districts. The Commission provides staff support to San Diego's Healthy Start Consortium, which meets on a quarterly basis. Meeting topics in 2005 included: the Formation of a State Family Support Association, Sustainability, and Workshop on Finding Champions. The mission is "advance the field of family support to foster strong healthy families and communities to ensure sustainable, quality services and programs through advocacy, technical assistance, public awareness, leveraging resources and networking." San Diego has approximately 40 Healthy Start programs, which serve over 100 schools providing school-linked health and





social services.

## **Signs of Support Program**

The Commission Executive Committee provides administrative oversight to the Signs of Support Program, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 1997. This program raises money by selling advertising on selected County vehicles. The Commission allocated FY 04-05 Signs of Support funds in the amount of \$39,850.08 to San Diego County Parks Society to administer to eligible school-aged children for sports and/or enrichment activities. San Diego County Parks Society distributed these funds to 80 foster and low-income youth for activities such as: football, soccer, and basketball leagues; high school sports; cheerleading; school trips; and summer, church and specialized camps.

## **Interagency and Community Partnerships**

To improve outcomes for children and their families and support integration of services, the Commission is represented on the following groups:

- Children's System of Care Steering Committee
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- San Diego Workforce Partnership Youth Council
  - Executive Committee
  - Capacity Building Committee

- Civic Engagement Leadership Team (First 5 Commission)
- San Diego City Schools Medi-Cal Collaborative
- San Diego Domestic Violence Council
- Developmental Screening and Evaluation Advisory Board
- Perinatal Substance Abuse Task Force
- Intergenerational Workgroup
- Raising the Bar Steering Committee
- Safe Start Steering Committee



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